

Karen Mouritsen  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States Office  
20 M Street SE, Suite 950  
Washington, D.C. 20003

2017 FEB 17 A 11: 22

EASTERN STATES OFFICE

Re: Protest of the March 23, 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Wayne National Forest  
Dear Director Mouritsen:

I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") planned March 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and the programmatic Final Environmental Assessment for oil and gas leasing in the Wayne National Forest, Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District, Monroe, Noble, and Washington Counties, Ohio (DOI-BLM-Eastern States--EA) ("EA"), pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. I formally protest the inclusion of each of the 21 parcels, covering 1,186 acres in the Wayne National Forest's Marietta Unit in Monroe County, Ohio:

Parcel #: ES-001-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058226 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-002-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058227 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-003-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058228 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-004-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058229 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-005-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058230 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-006-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058231 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-007-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058232 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-008-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058233 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-009-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058234 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-010-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058235 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-011-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058236 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-012-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058237 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-015-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058240 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-018-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058243 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-020-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058249 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-022-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058251 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-023-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058252 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-025-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058254 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-026-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058255 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-027-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058256 ACQ

Parcel #: ES-028-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058257 ACQ

PROTEST

I. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests

This Protest is filed on behalf of Eric Engle, 324 Point Drive Parkersburg, WV 26101. I am interested in this leasing for hydraulic fracturing because the methane emissions from fracking, trucking, pipelining, and use of natural gas are 86 times more efficient at trapping heat as a greenhouse gas than CO2 over a 20 year period and therefore contribute greatly to global climate change and because Wayne National Forest is Ohio's only national forest.

II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:

BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below:

Fracking exposes public and private land to documented devastation, including but not limited to, loss of biodiversity- including two species of endangered bats, release of sequestered CO2 and methane, additional air/ozone contamination, surface/ground water contamination, and an increase in seismic activity. The local community has not been properly educated on the true risks associated with these activities, and we have not been given adequate chances or time to meet with USFS or BLM representatives. USFS and BLM have ignored all our previous comments, as well as our petition with over 100,000 signatures. The community needs more time to be educated and to comment on these important matters, and we deserve to be heard. Ultimately, these issues have not been adequately assessed or addresses and there is no protocol that can guarantee the safety of wildlife or the public. Finally, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by not completing a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS) that would evaluate the effects of fracking within the WNF and surrounding areas. The BLM gave no consideration to the cumulative impact on air quality, water usage/ contamination, and climate change created by the increased fracking on private, and now additionally public land. Also, the BLM filed an inadequate Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based on an outdated Forest Plan from 2006 which did not seriously evaluate fracking, because it was not considered likely or viable at that time.

Signed,

Eric D. Engle